Meeting Summary

OPTN
Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network

OPTN Histocompatibility Committee Meeting

Date: 5/12/2026
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET
Host: HRSA OPTN Meetings
Purpose: The Histocompatibility Committee met to discuss the need to issue guidance on new Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA) nomenclature as well as onboard Histocompatibility Committee members to the new OPTN 360 platform.

Meeting Attendees

Organization	*Name(s)*
HRSA	Stephanie Grosser Kristen Hansen Joni Mills
Histocompatibility Committee Members	Gerald Morris Kelly Hitchman Laurine Bow Tiffany Bratton Michael Geautreaux John Lunz Helene McMurray Cathi Murphey Darryl Nethercot David Pinelli Bobbi Rhodes-Clark Jerome Saltarrelli Lakshmi Samidurai Crystal Usenko Qingyong Xu
OPTN Meeting & Logistics Contractor	Lindsey McEntee Erin Kannan Andrea Soong
OPTN 360 Contractor	Manasvini Gaggenpalli Roozbeh Ghanizada Richard Kim Fouad Ramia Craig Reiher

Action Items

Action Item	*Owner(s)*	*Due Date*
Contact ASHI to initiate communication with the Histocompatibility Committee	Histocompatibility Committee	-
Develop guidance on implementation and reporting	Histocompatibility Committee	-
Develop phased transition plan	Histocompatibility Committee	-

Meeting Notes and Key Decisions

Meeting Notes

Opening Remarks

- Quorum reached with 11 voting members
- The Chair welcomed attendees and said the agenda would cover a discussion of an implementation plan for the new human leukocyte antigen (HLA) nomenclature as well as onboarding to the OPTN 360 platform

Open Discussion about Implementation Plan for New Nomenclature

- The Chair discussed that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Immunogenetics Information System (IMGT) adopted the new serologic nomenclature with the goal to further refine serologic reactivities; this change introduced about 100 new serologic reactivities that can be described based on HLA sequencing, which will better predict reactivity and benefit patient safety
- The Chair added the initial plan was to wait until the OPTN confirmed full nomenclature implementation, then determine its integration into data tables, initially on an optional basis in UNET, then mandatory; the pause in meetings during the bridge period disrupted the plan and expected timeline
- The Vice-Chair asked if two recent reclassifications (for B15:15, updated from B62-->B75 and CO3:05, updated from Cw3 -->Cw10) are live in IMGT, since the fields are blank in the IMGT system
- The Chair confirmed the reclassification is partially populated and noted this demonstrates why a phased approach is necessary; full nomenclature inclusivity will be part of the committee's due diligence
- The Vice-Chair noted the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) formed a task force and will not advocate the nomenclature changes until guidance is available; after the group confirmed that no committee members are on the ASHI Task Force, the Chair recommended the committee coordinate and communicate with the AHSI task force to make sure they're in alignment
- The Chair noted that ASHI's approach to the change is to commit to one phase of implementation until there is consensus to begin the next phase
- A committee member agrees with the plan as presented and about the need for continuity with ASHI; the committee member drew attention to the amount of time it will take to rebuild UNET
- The Chair noted it should be easy to extend the tables to include serotypes, but to build new fields during the conversion time would be difficult, so a reasonable step is to give the community the option for serotypes; the Chair added that the match run would still not run off serotypes
- A committee member commented on the need for an adequate cross walk for different typings, especially kidney and kidney-pancreas matchings, or it would be a burden on labs to retype patients
- The Chair replied that the committee will need to provide guidance for labs on how to avoid antigens and noted the need to factor the phased implementation plan into the guidance, as not every serotype can be resolved with current quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) methods
- The Chair added that the current comparison between current multiplex Sequence-Specific Priming (SSP) qPCR approach and the new real-time, long-read Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) offers a chance to identify gaps in the two methods for serotypes
- A committee member noted the consideration that since it is not required to report donor typings at the allele level, an allele level avoid doesn't automatically screen off donors; the Chair agreed and noted the process would work the same as allele-specific antibodies; the change will be guidance until it becomes policy

- The Chair added that this will be a big issue going forward and will get worse, since the serotypes are not exhaustive for all possibilities; the committee must be very thoughtful about implementation
- A committee member discussed the complexity of the problem, with some labs that use NGS and real-time deceased donor typing, while others report allele-specific antibodies, and there is no way to unify the two methods and no equivalence tables; the Chair confirmed this as a reason for the phased approach; the Chair noted that the new policy will require serotyping that vendors will have to provide kits for, or labs will transition to new technologies, as seen with high resolution and Botulinum Neurotoxin (BNT)
- A committee member expressed that this approach would make matters more complicated, as the argument over nomenclature has lasted many years, to which the Chair agreed the solution is better but incomplete; though the easiest approach would be to list a specific allele, that is not the decision WHO and IMTG made
- A committee member discussed the three new changes found in the meeting's pre-reading; 1. C12s have a few new DPs, which the committee member thinks makes sense to adopt; 2. The committee member is unsure whether the new WHO nomenclature refers to a list of serological specificities or if it also includes associated antigens; 3. It is unclear whether the proposed table on DQR from beta combos, is WHO nomenclature
- A committee member interprets that only the first table represents WHO nomenclature and the other two are proposed and their implementation is discretionary; the committee member suggested the committee request clarification from WHO
- The Chair noted that the inclusion of the DP epitopes in the match run is a precedent for the associated antigens and agreed this is a good point of discussion; the committee will need to consider whether the associated serotypes take priority over serologic antigens, and how to include them
- The Chair also discussed that WHO has combinations for heterodimer antigens, but IMGT does not; that creates a challenge for implementation
- A committee member is in favor to include associated antigens and the relevant implementation considerations into an existing table as another layer of granularity for allele-level typings; the committee member noted that once vendors catch up and there is a critical mass of HLA labs that can provide the information, the OPTN could update the policy to mandate reports at the serotype-level
- The Chair raised a potential patient safety issue around confusion about the UNET algorithm that could affect the level of granularity in lab reports; guidance must be clear about available information as well as what information gaps will be present during the nomenclature transition period and what gaps will remain; guidance is crucial and it is important to issue a recommendation soon
- A committee member asked if it is mandatory to adopt the new nomenclature
- The Chair responded that they must use the official nomenclature from IMGT, as it is the source of information for labs and physicians, though it also contains pre-2016 serology; the Chair added that the committee must, at a minimum, address how they will use the nomenclature, since labs will in some way adopt it

OPTN 360 Onboarding

- The OPTN 360 Contractor walked committee members through the process to set up and use the OPTN 360 platform, addressed planned updates, and answered questions